

TITLE: MULTI-PURPOSE COILED TUBING HANDLING SYSTEM

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[0000] This patent application is a non-provisional application of provisional application Serial No. 60/457,219 filed March 25, 2003

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates generally to an improved system for handling coiled tubing on an offshore platform or installation. More specifically, the invention is a system for reducing the load (i.e., stack weight, tubing load, etc.) on the wellhead and for providing a flexible connection between the wellhead and the coiled tubing stack.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[0002] There are three broad classes of offshore installations: floating platforms or floaters, fixed leg, and tension leg. Floating platforms are connected only to the sea floor by a marine riser. Fixed leg platforms have solid legs that reach all the way to the sea floor. Tension leg platforms (including spars) have cables that pull the buoyant structure deeper into the water.

[0003] Operations on fixed leg platforms are very similar to land operations. The only significant differences are that the work space is more limited and all of the equipment must be delivered or transported to the platform. Typically, such delivery is by boat, with the equipment being lifted into place with the platform crane.

[0004] Operating on floaters requires that the coiled tubing equipment be placed in the load path of the marine riser. This requires that a lifting frame capable of carrying 350 tons (for a typical operation) is required to allow the injector and BOPs to be isolated from this enormous load. The key challenges are getting this frame into the derrick, rigging up the coiled tubing equipment